The Middle Ages Research Project

Standards Covered:

ELA12W7

Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under investigation.

ELA12W8

Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation.

ELA12W9

Draw evidence from literary or informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research.

The Middle Ages

When you think of the Middle Ages, the first thing that comes to your mind is probably kings, queens, brave knights, damsels in distress, and other artifacts from a bygone era, but the Middle Ages, or Medieval Period, encompassed one of the most turbulent periods in European history. The period started after the fall of the Roman Empire around 500 A.D. and lasted until the beginning of the Renaissance in 1400 A.D.

Until relatively recently, Renaissance scholars, authors, artists, and thinkers characterized and dismissed the “Dark Ages” as being backward without any scientific or artistic innovations and having wasted the advancements of their predecessors, the ancient Greeks and Romans, but that is not the case. While turbulent, the literary records we have, such as The Canterbury Tales, show us that the Middle Ages were just as complex and vibrant as any other period.

The Canterbury Tales

The Canterbury Tales is a work written by Geoffrey Chaucer between 1387 and 1400. It is a collection of stories told through a frame in which several different characters on a pilgrimage, or religious journey, from London, England to a cathedral in Canterbury pass the time and amuse themselves by telling different stories.

Through the stories we see a cross-section of everyday Medieval life, its customs, and social practices. Through this project, you can explore an area of Medieval life which interests you and share what you discover with the class.

Research Topics

1. Listed below are several topics either related to the Middle Ages or what life was like during the Middle Ages in Europe. Choose one of the topics below as your subject, for a brief research project, which you will present to the class.

Bubonic Plague

Chivalry and Knights

Knighthood

Joan of Arc

The Magna Carta

Geoffrey Chaucer

The Feudal System

The Catholic Church

Priesthood

Entertainment

Peasantry

Medieval Jobs

Richard the Lion Hearted

Gothic Cathedrals

Holy Roman Empire

Medieval Guilds

Christian Crusades

Muslim Crusades

William the Conqueror

Medicine

Saladin

William Wallace

Charlemange

Medieval Warfare

Medieval Fashion

Domesday Book

The Battle of Hastings

The 100 Hundred Years War

The English Monarchy

Medieval Weaponry

Medieval Armor

\*If you have another idea for a research topic, please ask Mr. Hatch or Mr. Bailey to receive approval.

Research Requirements

1. You will need to conduct research about the topic you choose.
2. You will present the information that you find to the class in the form of a PowerPoint, Prezi, video, or similar program.
	1. The presentation should be at least five slides long or equivalent to that.
	2. Include a “Works Cited” “slide” at the end of your presentation. Please use MLA format.
	3. Your title slide will not count towards that minimum.
3. You will need to write and turn in an outline of the information covered in your presentation.
	1. This outline should be no more than about 1-2 pages long.
4. You will also create another presentation aid to show to the class and helps you teach the class about your topic.
	1. This may be a property, a collection of photographs, a painting, a video, a demonstration, etc.
5. We will treat you as the expert on whichever topic you choose, so be prepared to answer questions about your topic from the teachers and the class.

Middle Ages Research Project Grading Rubric

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Visual Presentation  | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Presentation Aid | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Research Outline | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Presentation, Questions, and Answers | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Works Cited Slide (MLA formatted) | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/20 |
| Overall Score | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_/100 |